

Trinity-Grace United Church

Welcome!

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Ordinary Time
September 4, 2022

Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don't be afraid.

Go where your best prayers take you.

—Frederick Buechner
1926-2022

BECOMING PRESENT

Hymns by Request

Welcome

Connecting in Community

Announcements, joys, and concerns

Lighting a Candle

Introit: “Spirit Open Our Hearts” MV 79

Spirit, open our hearts to the joy and pain of living.
As you love, may we love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open our hearts. (x2)

Invitation to Worship (One/All)

Where can we escape God's Spirit? Where can we flee God's presence?

If we climb to the heavens, or lie down in the grave, God is there.

At the farthest reaches of space and time, God's hand guides us and God's heart holds us fast.

For God, the night is bright as day, and every darkness, light.

Let us worship the One who called us into being, who knit us together and recorded our names in the book of life.

We come to praise the One whose love for us never ends, who offers us life without limit.

Gathering Prayer (All)

Weaver of life, potter of the ages, from our first cry to our last breath we are yours. Through ancient texts, everyday visions, and the needs of our neighbours, may we hear and learn your word, find clarity for our lives, and commit ourselves afresh to the costly discipleship of your Anointed. Amen.

Hymn: "Come, O Fount of Every Blessing" (Words adapted from Robert Robinson; tune: Nettleton, VU 559)

Come, O fount of every blessing,
tune our hearts to sing your grace,
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of joyous praise.
Teach us some melodious measure,
sung by flaming tongues above;
O the vast and boundless treasure
of our God's unfailing love.

Here, O God, we sing your praises,
hither by your help we come,
and we hope by your good graces
safely to arrive at home.
On this earth we walk as strangers
travelling paths we do not know;
take our hands in death or dangers,
where the Jordan's waters flow.

To your grace, a flowing river,
daily we are drawn anew!
let that grace, eternal giver,
lead our wand'ring hearts to you.
Let us know you in your fullness;
guide us by your gracious hand,
'til transformed into your likeness,
in your presence we shall stand.

Offering Our Brokenness and Our Longing to Be Whole (All)

Mystery of Love beyond our grasp, you show us hope and offer us courage, and we yearn to walk your path of justice and love. Yet we become discouraged and disheartened; the cost of discipleship often seems more than we are willing or able to pay. In your presence, may we know the embrace of your love, the comfort of your grace, and the healing of your compassion, and so find new courage and commitment to live as disciples of your Anointed. Amen.

Sharing Peace

Shalom! God's peace is with you!
Shalom! God's peace is also with you!

Sung Response: "LIKE A ROCK" MV 92

Like a rock, like a rock, God is under our feet.
Like the starry night sky God is over our head.
Like the sun on the horizon God is ever before.
Like the river runs to ocean, our home is in God evermore. (x2)

ATTENDING TO THE SPIRIT

*Whether you take what is written in the Bible as fact, metaphor, myth, or story—
listen to these words for the meaning they hold for you today.*

A Reading from the Prophets: Jeremiah 18: 1-11

A Reading from the Gospels: Luke 14: 25-33

Reflecting on the Reading

WIDENING THE CIRCLE

Hymn: “Jesus Calls Us” VU 562, verses 1, 2, 3, and 5 (tune: VU244)

Jesus calls us; o’er the tumult of our life’s wild restless sea,
day by day his clear voice sounding, saying “Christian, follow me.”
Long ago apostles heard it by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred, leaving all for Jesus’ sake.

Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world’s golden store,
from each idol that would keep us, saying “Christian, love me more.”
Jesus calls us; by your mercies, Saviour may we hear your call,
Give our hearts to your obedience, serve and love you best of all.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern

Disciples’ Prayer (All)

Loving God - Source of life,
may your name be held sacred by all creation.
May your reign come,
and your holy will be done,
here among us,
as in the great communion of saints.
Provide what we need to sustain us this day.
Forgive our sins,
as we forgive the hurts we absorb from others.
Keep us from trials too great to bear,
and strengthen us to resist evil.
For yours is the realm of love, yours the energy of life,
and yours the true essence of all that is,
now and always. Amen.

Offering Our Gifts

Offering Hymn: (Tune: O Waly, Waly VU 372)

God, bless the gifts our hands have brought;
God, bless the work our hearts have planned.
Ours is the faith, the will, the thought;
the rest, O God, is in your hand.

Offering Prayer (All):

Holy One, you create us as pots of clay to hold your treasure. We come as we are and as we shall be, offering our work, our time, our worship, and our witness. May our gifts and our giving bring blessing to all beings of the universe. Amen.

Hymn: "Will you Come and Follow Me" VU 567

1. Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?
2. Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?
3. Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?
4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

5. Christ, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Commissioning and Benediction

Sung Amen Sing Amen VU 431

Sing amen. **Amen, we praise your name, O God.**

Sing amen. **Amen, we praise your name, O God.**

Sing amen. **Amen, amen, amen, amen,
amen, we praise your name , O God. (x2)**

Postlude

